

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for contacting Applicant's representative on November 24, 2003, to clarify the Restriction Requirement. Claims 1-17 have been withdrawn. Claims 18-61 are currently pending.

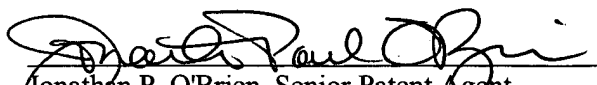
Applicant elects Group II covering claims 18-53 with traverse and provisionally elects the species in which the effervescent agent includes citric acid, as the acid component, and calcium carbonate, as the base component.

In making the restriction between Groups II and III, the Examiner states that the claimed process can be used to make a "non-effervescent" composition. See the Office Action at page 2. The process covered by claims 54-61, however, does not result in "non-effervescent compositions," since the claimed process requires admixing an effervescent agent to produce the claimed composition. Reconsideration of the restriction between Groups II and III is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 18-61 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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